

Appln. No. 09/933,332
Amended, dated May 27, 2005
Reply to Office Communication of May 19, 2005
Exhibit No. BOC9-2001-0007 (242)

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sharing providing contact list information between participants of management in a chat session, comprising:

identifying a first chat session participant maintaining a first contact list
maintaining contact information relating to contacts of said first chat session participant
and identifying a second chat participant having a second contact list containing contact
information relating to contacts of said second chat participant, said first chat session
participant and said second chat session participant participating within a common chat
session;

providing the second chat session participant with access to contact
information contained within [[a]] the first contact list by a second chat session
participant, said first contact list associated with a first chat session participant and said
second chat session participant associated with a second contact list; and

providing the first chat session participant with access to contact
information contained within said second contact list by said first chat session participant.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether said first contact list is modifiable by said second chat session participant; and

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if said first contact list is modifiable by said second chat session participant, permitting the modification of said first contact list by said second chat session participant.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein said modification step comprises the step of adding contact information to said first contact list.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of displaying an icon within a chat session interface used by the second chat session participant to indicate whether said first contact list is accessible to said second chat session participant.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein said displayed icon indicates whether said first contact list is modifiable, further comprising ~~the step of altering said display icon to indicate that said first contact list is modifiable~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of displaying an icon within a chat session interface used by the first chat session participant to indicate whether said second contact list is accessible to said first chat session participant.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said displayed icon of claim 6 indicates whether said second contact list is modifiable, further comprising ~~the step of altering said display icon to indicate that said second contact list is modifiable~~.

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8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[7]] 1, further comprising the steps of:

~~permitting the selection of said displayed icon for said first contact list and said displayed icon for said second contact list by a third chat session participant having a third contact list;~~

~~comparing said selected first contact list and said selected second contact list to said third contact list; and~~

~~displaying contacts that are uncommon to said selected first contact list, said selected second contact list and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step;~~

~~identifying a third chat session participant maintaining a third contact list containing contact information relating to contacts of said third chat session participant, and said third chat session participant participating within said common chat session; and~~

~~providing the third chat session participant with access to contact information maintained within the first contact list and the second contact list and providing the first chat session participant and said second chat session participant with access to contact information contained within the third contact list.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8]] 63, further comprising the [[step]] steps of:

permitting the selection of said displayed icon for said first contact list and said displayed icon for said second contact list;

comparing said selected first contact list and said selected second contact list to said third contact list; and

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displaying to said third chat session participant contacts that are common to said first selected contact list, said second selected contact list, and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

permitting any of said first chat session participant, said second chat session participant and said third chat session participant to modify any of said first contact list, said second contact list and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step; and

permitting any of said chat session participants associated with said contact list to reject said modification.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein if said display icon indicates that said first contact list is not modifiable, further comprising the step of requesting said first chat session participant to allow said second chat session participant to modify said contact list.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim ~~[[7]]~~ 11, wherein if said display icon indicates that said second contact list is not modifiable, further comprising the step of requesting said second chat session participant to allow said first chat session participant to modify said contact list.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

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requesting said first chat session participant to provide access to said first contact list; and

requesting said second chat session participant to provide access to said second contact list.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing accessibility status to selected chat session participants.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of providing accessibility status to all active chat session participants.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for providing contact management to parties engaged in a chat communication session, the method comprising:

identifying a first chat session participant maintaining a first contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said first chat session participant and identifying a second chat participant having a second contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said second chat participant, said first chat session participant and said second chat session participant participating within a common chat session;

providing access for said ~~[[a]]~~ first contact list ~~having contact records~~ to a second participant to the communication session, ~~said first contact list associated with a first participant to the communication session, said second participant having an associated second contact list with contact records ;~~

identifying similar contacts between contact records located in said first contact list and contact records located in said second contact list; and

adding selected dissimilar contact records located in said first contact list to said second contact list.

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17. (Original) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

determining if said first contact list is modifiable by said second participant to the communication session; and

if said first contact list is modifiable by said second participant, adding selected dissimilar contact records to said first contact list.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, wherein said step of providing access to said first contact list further comprises the steps of:

determining an accessibility status of said first contact list; and

providing access to said first contact list if said accessibility status indicates that said second participant can access said first contact list.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of:

determining if said second contact list is accessible by said first participant to the communication session; and

if said second contact list is accessible by said first participant, identifying similar contacts between contact records located in said second contact list and contact records located in said first contact list.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

determining if said second contact list is modifiable by said first participant to the communication session; and

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adding selected dissimilar contact records located in said second contact list to said first contact list.

21. (Original) The method according to claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying an icon to represent whether a contact list for a participant to the communication session is accessible.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, further comprising the step of modifying said icon to display whether said contact list for said participant to the communication session is modifiable.

23. (Currently Amended) In a chat session having a plurality of communicating chat session participants, a contact management method comprising:

identifying a plurality of chat session participants participating within a common chat session, each chat session participant maintaining a participant specific contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said chat participant;

assembling and displaying a contact list in a GUI associated with one of the chat session participants, wherein said contact list includes contact records from chat session participants other than the one participant in which the GUI is displayed;

accepting modifications to said contact list by chat session participants other than the one participant in which the GUI is displayed another chat session participant; and
responsively displaying results from said modifications within said GUI.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for providing contact management in a chat session, comprising:

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identifying a first chat session participant maintaining a first contact list containing
contact records relating to contacts of said first chat session participant, identifying a
second chat participant having a second contact list containing contact records relating to
contacts of said second chat participant, and identifying a third chat participant having a
third contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said third chat
participant, said first chat session participant, said second chat session participant, and
said third chat session participant participating within a common chat session;

sending a token of introduction originated by ~~[[a]] the first chat session participant~~
~~having a first contact list~~, to ~~[[a]] the second chat session participant having a second~~
~~contact list~~, said token of introduction providing a recommendation for said second chat
 session participant;

transferring said token of introduction to ~~[[a]] the third chat session participant~~
 who is known to said first chat session participant; and

if said third chat session participant accepts said token of introduction, modifying
 said third contact list with contact information for said second chat session participant.

25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising
 modifying said second contact list with information for said third chat session participant.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 25, further comprising
 licensing said token of introduction upon expiration of a specified period of time.

27. (Original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising
 executing said transferring step upon said third chat session participant initiating a chat
 session with said second chat session participant.

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28. (Currently Amended) A system for providing contact management, comprising:

a first contact list, said first contact list containing contact information relating to contacts of and maintained by a first chat session participant associated with a first chat session participant;

a second contact list, said second contact list containing contact information relating to contacts of and maintained by a second chat session participant, said second chat session participant engaged in a chat session with said first chat session participant; and

a computing application program facilitating said chat session, said application program permitting said second chat session participant to modify contact information contained within said first contact list and permitting said first chat session participant to modify contact information contained within said second contact list.

29. (Original) The system according to claim 28, further comprising a computer application server for executing said computing application program.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 28, further comprising a first computing device for permitting said first contact list to be viewed by said second chat session participant and a second computing device permitting said second contact list to be viewed by said first chat session participant.

31. (Withdrawn) A GUI for providing contact management for chat session participants, comprising:

a chat display window for displaying a first chat session participant and a second chat session participant engaged in a chat session; and

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at least one contact window for displaying contact information for at least one chat session participant engaged in said chat session.

32. (Withdrawn) The GUI according to claim 31, wherein said at least one contact window is a window pane within said chat display window.

33. (Withdrawn) The GUI according to claim 32, wherein said at least one contact window is a window pane external to said chat display window.

34. (Withdrawn) The GUI according to claim 31, further comprising a first modifiable status icon which indicates whether said first contact list is accessible and, if said first contact list is accessible, whether said first contact list is modifiable.

35. (Withdrawn) The GUI according to claim 31, further comprising a second status icon which indicates whether said second contact list is accessible and, if said second contact list is accessible, whether said second contact list is modifiable.

36. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a first chat session participant maintaining a first contact list containing contact information relating to contacts of said first chat session participant and identifying a second chat participant having a second contact list containing contact information relating to contacts of said second chat participant, said first chat session participant and said second chat session participant participating within a common chat session;

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providing the second chat session participant with access to contact information contained within ~~[[a]] the first contact list by a second chat session participant, said first contact list associated with a first chat session participant and said second chat session participant associated with a second contact list; and~~

providing the first chat session participant with access to contact information contained within said second contact list ~~by said first chat session participant.~~

37. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 36, further comprising:

determining whether said first contact list is modifiable by said second chat session participant; and

if said first contact list is modifiable by said second chat session participant, permitting the modification of said first contact list by said second chat session participant.

38. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 37, wherein said modification step comprises adding contact information to said first contact list.

39. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 37,

further comprising the step of displaying an icon within a chat session interface ~~and by the second chat session participant~~ to indicate whether said first contact list is accessible to said second chat session participant.

40. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 39, wherein said displayed icon indicates whether said first contact list is

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~~is modifiable, further comprising the step of altering said display icon to indicate that said first contact list is modifiable.~~

41. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 40, further comprising the step of displaying an icon within a chat session interface used by the first chat session participant to indicate whether said second contact list is accessible to said first chat session participant.

42. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 41, wherein said displayed icon of claim 6 indicates whether said second contact list is modifiable, further comprising the step of altering said display icon to indicate that said second contact list is modifiable.

43 (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

~~permitting the selection of said displayed icon for said first contact list and said displayed icon for said second contact list by a third chat session participant having a third contact list;~~

~~comparing said selected first contact list and said selected second contact list to said third contact list; and~~

~~displaying contacts that are uncommon to said selected first contact list, said selected second contact list and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step;~~

identifying a third chat session participant maintaining a third contact list containing contact information relating to contacts of said third chat session participant, and said third chat session participant participating within said common chat session; and

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providing the third chat session participant with access to contact information contained within the first contact list and the second contact list and providing the first chat session participant and said second chat session participant with access to contact information contained within the third contact list; and

displaying icons within a chat session interface used by a third chat session participant to indicate whether said first chat contact list and said second contact list is accessible to said third chat session participant.

44. (Currently Amended) The machine readable storage according to claim 43, further comprising the step of:

permitting the selection of said displayed icon for said first contact list and said displayed icon for said second contact list;

comparing said selected first contact list and said selected second contact list to said third contact list; and

displaying to said third chat session participant contacts that are common to said first selected contact list, said second selected contact list, and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step.

45. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 44, further comprising the steps of:

permitting any of said first chat session participant, said second chat session participant and said third chat session participant to modify any of said first contact list, said second contact list and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step; and

permitting any of said chat session participants associated with said contact list to reject said modification.

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46. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 42, wherein:
i) said display icon indicates that said first contact list is not modifiable, further
comprising the step of requesting said first chat session participant to allow said second
chat session participant to modify said contact list.

47. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 42, wherein:
ii) said display icon indicates that said second contact list is not modifiable, further
comprising the step of requesting said second chat session participant to allow said first
chat session participant to modify said contact list.

48. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 36, further
comprising the steps of:

requesting said first chat session participant to provide access to said first
contact list; and

requesting said second chat session participant to provide access to said
second contact list.

49. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 36, further
comprising the step of providing accessibility status to selected chat session participants.

50. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 36, further
comprising the step of providing accessibility status to all active chat session participants.

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51. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

~~identifying a first chat session participant maintaining a first contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said first chat session participant and identifying a second chat participant having a second contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said second chat participant, said first chat session participant and said second chat session participant participating within a common chat session;~~

~~providing access for said [[a]] first contact list having contact records to a second participant to the communication session, said first contact list associated with a first participant to the communication session, said second participant having an associated second contact list with contact records ;~~

~~identifying similar contacts between contact records located in said first contact list and contact records located in said second contact list; and~~

~~adding selected dissimilar contact records located in said first contact list to said second contact list.~~

52. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

~~determining if said first contact list is modifiable by said second participant in the communication session; and~~

~~if said first contact list is modifiable by said second participant, adding selected dissimilar contact records to said first contact list.~~

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53. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 52, wherein said step of providing contact list to a first participant further comprises the steps of:
determining an accessibility status of said first contact list; and
providing access to said first contact list if said accessibility status indicates that said second participant can access said first contact list.

54. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 51, further comprising the steps of:
determining if said second contact list is accessible by said first participant at the communication session; and
if said second contact list is accessible by said first participant, identifying similar contacts between contact records located in said second contact list and contact records located in said first contact list.

55. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:
determining if said second contact list is modifiable by said first participant at the communication session; and
adding selected dissimilar contact records located in said second contact list to said first contact list.

56. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 55, further comprising the step of displaying an icon to represent whether a contact list for a participant to the communication session is accessible.

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57. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 56, further comprising the step of modifying said icon to display whether said contact list for said participant to the communication session is modifiable.

58. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a plurality of chat session participants participating within a common chat session, each chat session participant maintaining a participant specific contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said chat participant;

assembling and displaying a contact list in a GUI associated with one of the chat session participants, wherein said contact list includes contact records from chat session participants other than the one participant in which the GUI is displayed; and

accepting modifications to said contact list by chat session participants other than the one participant in which the GUI is displayed another chat session participant; and responsively displaying results from said modifications within said GUI.

59. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a first chat session participant maintaining a first contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said first chat session participant, identifying a second chat participant having a second contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said second chat participant, and identifying a third chat participant having a third contact list containing contact records relating to contacts of said third chat

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participant, said first chat session participant, said second chat session participant, and said third chat session participant participating within a common chat session;

sending a token of introduction originated by [[a]] the first chat session participant having a first contact list, to [[a]] the second chat session participant having a second contact list, said token of introduction providing a recommendation for said second chat session participant;

transferring said token of introduction to [[a]] the third chat session participant who is known to said first chat session participant; and

if said third chat session participant accepts said token of introduction, modifying said third contact list with contact information for said second chat session participant.

60. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 59, further comprising modifying said second contact list with information for said third chat session participant.

61. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 60, further comprising discarding said token of introduction upon expiration of a specified period of time.

62. (Original) The machine readable storage according to claim 59, further comprising executing said transferring step upon said third chat session participant initiating a chat session with said second chat session participant.

63. (New) The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of:

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displaying icons within a chat session interface used by a third chat session participant to indicate whether said first chat contact list and said second contact list is accessible to said third chat session participant.

64. (New) The method according to claim 63, further comprising the steps of:

permitting the selection of said displayed icon for said first contact list and said displayed icon for said second contact list;

comparing said selected first contact list and said selected second contact list to said third contact list; and

displaying to said third chat session participant contacts that are uncommon to said selected first contact list, said selected second contact list and said third contact list according to results from said comparing step.